

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:CHILL:DEF
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S E C R E T STATE 097534

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, XF, EGY

SUBJECT: PEACE PROCESS - DINITZ TOLD OF PROPOSED ATHERTON
TRIP.

1. FOLLOWING SAUNDERS/MAYNES APRIL 14 TALK WITH DINITZ,
ATHERTON FILLED DINITZ IN ON BACKGROUND OF PROPOSAL THAT
ATHERTON UNDERTAKE QUICK TRIP TO AREA, MAKING THESE POINTS:

-- AT END OF HIS LAST TRIP ATHERTON HAD BEGUN TO EXPLORE
WITH EGYPTIANS QUESTION OF INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEST
BANK/GAZA AND TRIED TO GET THEM TO LOOK AT ISRAEL'S SELF-
RULE PLAN AS A STARTING POINT. THE RESULTS WERE INCONCLUS-
IVE.

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-- WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT EGYPTIANS NOW MAY BE GIVING
MORE THOUGHT TO THIS ISSUE. THEREFORE WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT
BE USEFUL FOR ATHERTON TO GO TO EGYPT TO KEEP THEM ENGAGED
ON THIS TOPIC.

-- WE HAVE ASKED EGYPTIANS FOR THEIR REACTION AND FOR SUG-
GESTIONS ON TIMING, MAKING CLEAR TO THEM THAT PROPOSED

ATHERTON TRIP NOT INTENDED TO GET IN THE WAY OF WEIZMAN-GAMASY TALKS.

-- WE HAVE ASKED SAM LEWIS TO INFORM ISRAEL OF THE SECRETARY'S WISH THAT ATHERTON MAKE THIS TRIP, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTY OF ARRANGING SOON A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND DAYAN--ALTHOUGH ATHERTON TRIP OF COURSE WOULD NOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR SUCH A MEETING.

2. SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF, DINITZ EXPRESSED VIEW THAT EFFORT TO ACHIEVE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY; MOVING INTO DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF WEST BANK/GAZA ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT LEAD TO "DIFFICULTIES" THAT COULD IMPEDE FIRING UP DECLARATION. THIS WAS NOT A COMMENT ON PROPOSAL FOR ATHERTON TRIP, DINITZ SAID, BUT HIS VIEW AS TO PRIORITIES.

3. ATHERTON SAID LEWIS HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REACTION IN ISRAEL. NONETHELESS, EGYPTIANS ARE NOW CONSIDERING WHAT SHOULD COME NEXT AND WE FEEL IT IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP UP OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THEM. WE HAVE NOT HAD A REPLY YET FROM EGYPTIANS, ATHERTON SAID, BUT WILL KEEP ISRAELIS POSTED.

4. SEE SEPTELS FOR OTHER TOPICS ADDRESSED DURING MEETINGS: SOUTHERN LEBANON AND CLIMATE OF U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS.

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CHRISTOPHER

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